

11-29-05

JRW



Docket No.: HO-P02925US0  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Mark S. Gasaway et al.

Application No.: 10/790,294

Confirmation No.: 9348

Filed: March 1, 2004

Art Unit: 3679

For: JOINT CONNECTION

Examiner: E. Garcia

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date, OR more than three months after the date of entry of the national stage of a PCT application, AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, whichever occurs first, but before the mailing date of a Final Office Action or Notice of Allowance (37 CFR 1.97(c)).

This IDS is being filed under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(2): No item on this Information Disclosure Statement was cited by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and to the knowledge of the person signing this certification, after making reasonable inquiry, no item in this IDS was known to any individual designated by 37 CFR § 1.56(c) for more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

The information submitted in the IDS became known to one or more individuals designated by 37 CFR § 1.56(c) when they received a US Patent Office Action in a related US patent application, more specifically, an Office Action dated August 26, 2005 (received by applicant's attorney on August 29, 2005) in US application serial number 10/790,532 (filed March 1, 2004; Patent Examiner Daniel J. Mills, Art Unit 3679).

I hereby certify that no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Copies of the references on the PTO/SB/08 are not provided.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure statement shall not be construed to be an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

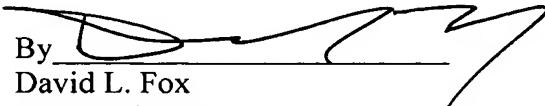
It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

Applicant understands that no fees are due as this IDS is filed under 37 CFR §§1.97(c)(1) and 1.97(e). However, if any fees are due, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit

Account No. 06-2375, under Order No. HO-P02925US0.

Dated: November 28, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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PTO/SB/08A (10-01)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	10/790,294
				Filing Date	March 1, 2004
				First Named Inventor	Mark S. Gasaway
				Art Unit	3679
				Examiner Name	E. Garcia
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	HO-P02925US0

<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
AA*	US-2,113,403	04-05-1938	O. B. Harmon		
AB*	US-2,701,726	02-08-1955	B. Barenyi		
AC*	US-3,061,338	10-30-1962	E. B. Clark		
AD*	US-832,451	10-02-1906	E. E. Betts		

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)			
					T <sup>6</sup>

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>See attached Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the application number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

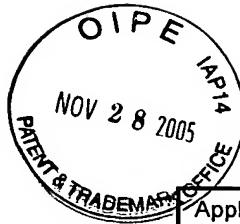
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Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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Application No. (if known): 10/790,294

Attorney Docket No.: HO-P02925US0

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IDS (Citation) by Applicant (1 page)  
Information Disclosure Statement (2 pages)  
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